regard to rate of iterest in case of delay beyond 28 days, I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that this delay is not due to lack of postal services or transport but it is due to utter inefficiency and carelessness on the part of the staff concerned. Therefore, the interest which has to be charged is only a nominal savings bank rate and not the regular interest, whether it is going to be the liability on the bank or is it going to be charged against the concerned people by whom the delay is caused?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, so far as nomination facilities are concerned, we are going to implement them and I assure the hon'ble Member that they will be implemented. Now, coming to the service charges, a suggestion has been made that for the deficiencies that were found, bank people or bank officials should be charged. We will take note of this suggestion.

Occupancy rate of different Ashok Hotels in the Country

*125. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:† SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ashoka Hotels at Kovalam Beach (Kerala), Varanasi, Khajuraho, Madurai, Bhubaneswar, Aurangabad and Hassan showed an occupany rate of less than 50 per cent for the period April, 1985 to January, 1986; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to increase their occupancy rates?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Except for the occupancy rate of Hotel Aurangabad Ashok, Aurangabad the occupancy rates of other hotels in question were less than 50 per cent during the period from April, 1985 to January, 1986.

Steps taken by ITDC to increase the occupancy rates of these hotels are as under:—

Marketing and Reservation tie-ups abroad of ITDC hotels for chain use by foreign tourists;

Setting up of ITDC's own Travel Agency;

Grant of additional discount to local companies, Travel Agents, Public Sector Undertakings, etc.;

Introduction of cheap packages for domestic clientele;

Promotion of ITDC properties in overseas market through participation in the Travel Trade fora;

Product improvement, etc.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Lokesh Chandra.

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Sir, in the reply to the question, it is stated by the Minister that the ITDC is going to set up its own Travel Agency. May I konw from the Minister whether the Travel Agency has been set up and if so, what increase has been shown in the occupancy rates of the hotels?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, I must frankly confess that I have yet to study the whole aspect of the matter. They have a number of travel organisations, etc., but exactly, precisely how much these travel agencies have helped, I have yet to study. I will require a little notice for that.

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: My second supplementary is, looking at the statistics given in reply to Question No. 294 on the 17th December, 1985, the occupancy rate for 1984-85 for Hotel Janpath was 79 per cent, while the occupancy rate for Ashok Yatri Niwas was as low as 66 per cent, in spite of the fact that Janpath is a four-star hotel and Ashok Yatri Niwas is an economy class hotel. Why were the occupancy rates of Ashok Yatri Niwas so low? Would the Minister enquire into the causes of such a low occupancy rate for an economy class hotel and how it would reflect on the future policy of ITDC hotels?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, at a given time which particular hotel is having which occupancy rates depends on a number of circumstances. What the occupancy was then is not the occupancy now. Now in January 1986, Ashok Yatri Niwas had 69 per cent occupancy. But the occupancy of Hotel Janpath is more because it is better known and has been in existence for a long time and it has its own advantages. The facilities given by Janpath are also slightly different from what Ashok Yatri Niwas is providing. It is true that Ashok Yatri Niwas is comparatively an economy budget hotel and Janpath is a little more costly, but it depends on the number and type of people. Janpath has been in existence for a long time. But I am considering that all possible steps should be taken. I have told the ITDC that all possible steps should be taken to improve the occupancy ratio of their hotels. I have the figures of all the hotels with me and most of the hotels, as of January 1986, with some exceptions, have improved their occupancy ratios.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I find two main reasons for the less occupancy rate of less than 50 per cent in hotels of this type. One is that the rates charged in these hotels are somewhat higher than the rates in other hotels of this type. Secondly, if a person enters the hotel and occupies a room exactly at 10-30 in the morning and leaves at 1.30, they charge for two days because they calculate from 12 o'clock to 12 o'clock the next day. These are the two reasons for the occupancy. What exactly is the answer of the Minister in regard to these two reasons?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir I will keep in view what the hon. Member has said. I think a number of things need to be done to improve the occupancy ratio. I am not sure if the tariffs are more as compared standard. The ITDC hotels have also been giving some concessions. The Question Hour is going to be over. If you permit me, Sir, I would like to make a small clarification. No employee of Akbar Hotel will be dismissed.

Secondly, they will be given compensation and alternative fresh employment will be given in the ITDC.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Sir, the question is, if you enter the hotel exactly at 11 o'clock and stay for three hours, they charge for two days.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made that point. Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: in the occupancy in fivestar hotels of the ITDC, is it true that the share of Indian nationals is increasing faster than the share of foreign nationals? And what is the ratio as it obtains today?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I have not worked out these figures about Indian nationals and foreign nationals, but there are some Indians settled abroad and they also come. We are keen about foreign tourists because we are interested in earning foreign exchange also, apart from other things. There is no problem for any foreign tourist coming into these hotels. We have taken care to see that foreign tourists are not denied accommodation.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, kindly request him to send me the figures...

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I do not have with me the separate figures... (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jaswant Singh.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: One of the measures that the Minister has recommended is product improvement. Does it mean that the product is now not satisfactory and, therefore, you wish to improve it?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: No, no. I say, they have improved. I want them to improve further.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Changes in Import and Export Policy

*126. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL:
SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government issued a notice on the 10th January, 1986 for making policy changes in the Import and Export Policy;

(b) whether any order for shifting terephatalic acid (TPA) from OGL list to the list of Limited Permissible Items was issued;

(c) what are the details of the Government Order of 29th May, 1985 regarding import of TPA;

(d) whether these changes involved the previous permission of Technical Development Department; and

(e) if so, whether such permission was obtained from the Technical Development Department?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) A Notification making certain amendments/corrections in the Import and Export Policy was issued on 10th January, 1986.